

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-14

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SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0787

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, UN, LA

SUBJECT: LAO FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRAVEL TO UN

REF: VIENTIANE 6898

1. TRAVEL PLANS OF FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WERE REVIEWED WITH HIM BY THE AMBASSADOR TODAY. PHOUMI PLANS TO LEAVE VIENTIANE ON THE AEROFLOT FLIGHT SEPTEMBER 14 AND REMAIN OVERNIGHT IN MOSCOW. FROM THERE ON HIS PLANS ARE VAGUE BUT HE SAID HE WOULD PROCEED TO PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND THENCE TO NICE/GRASSE TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA. HE EXPECTS TO FLY TO NEW YORK ON THE 18TH OR 19TH.

2. IN DISCUSSING HIS TRAVEL PLANS, PHOUMI ASKED THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER THERE WERE FLIGHTS FROM PARIS TO NEW YORK EVERY DAY. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT MANY AIRLINES HAD FLIGHTS NOT ONLY DAILY BUT SEVERAL TIMES A DAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. PHOUMI THEN ASKED IF ONE COULD TELEPHONE FROM PARIS TO NEW YORK BECAUSE
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IF SO HE WOULD HAVE THE LAO DELEGATION IN NEW YORK

NOTIFIED OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS SO THAT THE DELEGATION COULD NOTIFY THE U.S. DELEGATION OF HIS ARRIVAL TIME. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT PHONE CALLS WERE EASY TO MAKE AND THAT HE WOULD ASK THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PARIS TO CONTACT THE LAO EMBASSY IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THERE WAS PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF HIS FLIGHT AND ARRIVAL TIME.

3. AS MAY BE SEEN FROM THE FOREGOING, HIS YEARS IN THE CAVES OF SAM NEUA HAVE KEPT PHOUMI FROM HAVING ANY APPRECIATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION LINKS WHICH EXIST IN THE MODERN WORLD, AND ALTHOUGH HE ACCOMPANIED THE KING OF LAOS TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1963, HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP AS LEADER OF THE LAO DELEGATION IS A BIT CONFUSING AND PUZZLING FOR HIM. THIS EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE AFCT THAT USUN IS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AT THIS TIME OWING TO THE ARRIVAL OF NOTABLES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED, HOWEVER, IF APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO MEET THE LAO DELEGATION AND TO FACILITATE ITS ARRIVAL.

4. WE CANNOT DETERMINE HOW ACTIVE PHOUMI EXPECTS TO BE IN NEW YORK OR THE EXTENT TO WHICH A SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR HIM BY THE LAO DELEGATION. EMBASSY PARIS (PRATT) MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PHANYA THE THINGS WHICH HE BELIEVES MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO PHOUMI IN NEW YORK AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE AND THE LAO DELEGATION ARE PLANNING TO SHOW HIM THE SIGHTS. IN OUR VIEW, PHOUMI WOULD WELCOME ANY ASSISTANCE AND HOSPITALITY WHICH MIGHT BE PROFFERED. A TOUR OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, OR A CRUISE AROUND MANHATTAN MIGHT BE ACTIVITIES HE WOULD ENJOY AND WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM SOME SENSE OF NEW YORK LIFE.

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